DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 318 980 CG 022 527

AUTHOR White, Arden; Klimowski, Barbara
TITLE Participation in the "Journal of College Student Development" as Authors and Editorial Board Members: A Gender Study.
PUB DATE 88
NOTE 6p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Authors; Higher Education; *Scholarly Journals; *Sex Differences; *Student Personnel Services; Trend Analysis; *Writing for Publication
IDENTIFIERS *Journal of College Student Development

ABSTRACT

Scholarly experiences of men and women differ in several ways, including participation in various aspects of writing. This study analyzed author contribution and editorial board participation, by gender, for the entire history of the "Journal of College Student Development" (formerly the "Journal of College Student Personnel"). All issues from 1959 through 1988 were reviewed. The findings revealed that, beginning in the mid-1960s, trends for editorial board participation and authorships were similar. From about 10% in the mid-1960s, both editorial board and author percentages for females increased to the upper 40% range by 1988. The author-based equity ratios showed generally that first-author experience increased more or less proportionately to the all-author experience. An optimistic interpretation is that participation by women in the 1980s appears to have been edging toward equity, with less underrepresentation than in earlier decades. (NB)

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Participation in the Journal of College Student Development as Authors and Editorial Board Members: A Gender Study

Arden White and Barbara Klimowski

University of Wyoming

Address communications to: Arden White
P. O. Box 3374
University Station
Laramie, WY 82071

Telephone: (307) 766-2366

CG 022527

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Participation in the Journal of College Student Development as Authors and Editorial Board Members: A Gender Study.

Scholarly experiences of women and men have differed in several ways for quite some time, including participation in various aspects of writing (Teghtsoonian, 1974; Tryon, 1981; White, 1984, 1985). The study reported here is an analysis of author contribution and editorial board participation, by sex, for the entire history of the Journal of College Student Personnel (renamed the Journal of College Student Development in 1988).

Methodology

All issues from 1959 through 1988 were used, from which the gender of editorial board members and all authors were tabulated into three categories, based on given names: female, male, and unknown. Two sets of equity ratios, as devised by Teghtsoonian (1974), were computed. The first set, based on the percentage of women authors, was a comparison of the percentage for all authors with those for editorial board membership and first authorship. The second set compared journal participation percentages with American College Personnel Association membership percentages.

Findings

Data for the first few years were relatively volatile, due to smaller numbers of articles and authors. Beginning in the mid-60s, trends for editorial board participation and authorships, both first/only and co-author, were similar. From about 10%, both

editorial board and author percentages for females increased to the upper 40% range by 1988.

The author-based equity ratios show generally that first-author experience increased more or less proportionately to the all-author experience. A ratio of 1.00 is indicative of equality. Two were 1.00, 12 exceeded 1.00 by some amount, and 16 were less than 1.00, which can be taken to indicate similar first and co-author participation experiences. For editorial board experience, 19 ratios were larger than 1.00, some dramatically so, suggesting that, proportionately, women participated in the editorial board at a rate somewhat more than in the other two categories. These data are consistent with those for several AACD divisional journals previously reported (White, 1984).

The equity ratios based on ACPA membership present a rather different profile. Although membership data were available for only eight years, beginning with 1972, all ratios are less than 1.00. They did increase, and in 1988 were in the mid-80s.

During the 30 years, the percentages of women first authors exceeded the percentages of all women authors 12 times, and the reverse was true 18 times. However, women were capturing first authorships about as frequently as they appeared as authors generally.

Discussion

These results substantially parallel previous research. The time span here is much longer, making the trend development both

more stable and much more visible. These longitudinal data are consistent with the findings of underrepresentation from a sample of ACPA members in the mid-1980s by Nicoloff and Forrest (1988). Their data were not journal specific. Perhaps the ACPA journal was a somewhat more favorable outlet for women. An optimistic interpretation is that participation by women in the 1980s appears to have been edging toward equity, with less underrepresentation than in earlier decades.

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